

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 254

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2007

Referred to the Committee on Financial Services

AN ACT

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to
Constantino Brumidi.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) On July 26, 1805, Constantino Brumidi
4 was born in Rome, Italy of an Italian mother and
5 a Greek father who inspired him with a love of lib-
6 erty.

7 (2) While Constantino Brumidi's Greek ances-
8 try stirred his passion for liberty and citizenship, his
9 Italian heritage provided the art styles of the Ren-
10 aissance and the Baroque which influenced the art-
11 work of the United States Capitol.

12 (3) Constantino Brumidi became a citizen of
13 the United States as soon as he was able, embracing
14 its history, values, and ideals.

15 (4) Beginning in 1855, Constantino Brumidi
16 designed and decorated 1 House and 5 Senate com-
17 mittee rooms in the Capitol, as well as the Senate
18 Reception Room, the Office of the Vice President,
19 and, most notably, the President's Room, which rep-
20 resents Brumidi's supreme effort "to make beautiful
21 the Capitol" of the United States.

22 (5) In 1865, Constantino Brumidi completed in
23 just 11 months his masterpiece, "The Apotheosis of
24 Washington", in the eye of the Capitol dome.

25 (6) In 1871, Constantino Brumidi created the
26 first tribute to an African American in the Capitol

1 when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the
2 center of his fresco of the Boston Massacre.

3 (7) In 1878, Constantino Brumidi, at the age
4 of 72 and in poor health, began work on the Ro-
5 tunda frieze, which chronicles the history of Amer-
6 ica.

7 (8) On February 19, 1880, Constantino
8 Brumidi died at the age of 74, four and a half
9 months after slipping and nearly falling from a scaf-
10 fold while working on the Rotunda frieze.

11 (9) Constantino Brumidi, proud of his artistic
12 accomplishments and devoted to his adopted coun-
13 try, said, “My one ambition and my daily prayer is
14 that I may live long enough to make beautiful the
15 Capitol of the one country on earth in which there
16 is liberty.”.

17 (10) Constantino Brumidi’s life and work exem-
18 plify the lives of millions of immigrants who came to
19 pursue the American dream.

20 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of
24 the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for
25 the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,

1 of a gold medal of appropriate design to Constantino
2 Brumidi, in recognition of his contributions to the
3 Nation.

4 (2) DISPLAY OF MEDAL IN CAPITOL VISITOR
5 CENTER.—The Architect of the Capitol shall arrange
6 for the gold medal presented under this subsection
7 to be displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center, as part
8 of an exhibit honoring Constantino Brumidi.

9 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
10 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
11 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
12 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
13 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
14 retary.

15 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

16 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
17 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
18 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
19 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
20 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
21 and the cost of the gold medal.

22 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

23 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
24 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
25 of title 31, United States Code.

1 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
2 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
5 **SALE.**

6 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
7 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
8 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-
9 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
10 to this Act.

11 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
12 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
13 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
14 Enterprise Fund.

Passed the Senate May 21, 2007.

Attest: NANCY ERICKSON,
Secretary.